[This transcript was created by LAI staff. It is as true a representation of the original as we could create. When a word was too difficult to decipher or was questionable we put those words in brackets. All text in brackets represents the voice of the transcriber rather than the voice of the letter writer. We have not maintained the spacing that exists in the original letters because that was not compliant with our accessibility standards. We are left justifying most lines.]

[citation information]
Collection title: Corcoran Gallery of Art and Corcoran College of Art + Design, Corcoran Gallery of Art directors' records
collection number: COR-0002-0-RG
Series 1: MacLeod, Barbarin and McGuire records
Subseries 1: Indexed correspondence
Box 2008-001
Folder 40: Letters 391-400

[Letter #391]
[Front of Envelope]
Mason, Otis T.
Sept. 2, 1874
Asks if it is contemplated to embrace the History of Art, or confine the collection to works of the masters among civilized nations.
[Letter]
Columbia College
Sept. 2d 1874
W.W. Corocran [illegible]
Dear Sir.
Professor Henry has for some time [illegible] cherished a scheme, in view of a National University, which looks to the cooperation of all the Departments and Institutions of Washington where special collections are made, or special work is done. In prosecuting this scheme he has not overlooked the subject of human history, embracing the prehistoric man and his implements, as well as the tribes of men in our day of every grade of civilization. Our branch of this investigation is Art, and I write to enquire whether it is contemplated by your munificent gift of the Art Gallery to embrace the history of Art from its earliest manifestations, or to confine the collections to works of the masters among civilized nations only.
Very Respectfully [illegible]
Otis T. Mason

[Letter #392]
[Front of Envelope]
Kennedy, P.M.
College Hill Ohio
Sept. 7, 1874

Sept 9 /74 Rec'd
With regard to pictures he has offered to sale
[Letter]
Ohio College Hill 7 Sept. 1874
Corcoran Gallery, Washington
William MacCleod Esq.
Dear Sir
The [restrictions?] mentioned in your printed [illegible] under which pictures are received into your [Institute?] [illegible] [illegible] impossible for me [illegible] the paintings formerly mentioned to you, [namely?] The [illegible] by Rubens, The [Interior?] by [illegible], which [illegible] is considered as the finest specimen of that master in existence and the present is to say, that should any connoisseurs of painting be visiting the Exhibition in Cincinnati now open- these pictures are in the Art Gallery of Mr. [Illegible] [Illegible] 4th where they can be seen.
[Your Dear Friend?]
Your [Illegible]
M Kennedy

[Letter #393]
[Front of Envelope]
Parker, S.S. & Co.
Sept. 8, 1874
Sept. 8, 1874
Proposal to paint walls of [corridor?] and small [sculpture?] hall.
[Letter}
Washington, Sept. 8th, 1874
Mr. McLeod Esq.
Dear Sir
I propose to furnish all material and execute following painting and graining on walls at Corcoran Art Gallery.
Corridor walls below [illegible] both sides of main entrance including archways. Also the two Statuary Rooms, walls to have 4 coats pure Lead. [Grani?] lower portion to correspond with Gallery in [illegible] manner for the sum on one hundred & sixty dollars $160.00.
Respectfully,
S.S. Parker & Co
No. 1418 [5th?]

[Letter # 394]
[Front of Envelope]
S.S. Parker & Co.
Sept. 11, 1874
Agreement to paint corridors and E. Rooms, $160.00
[Letter]

Washington D.C.
It is agreed this eleventh day of September A.D. 1874, between the Corcoran Gallery of Art and S.S. Parker & Co. that the said Parker and Co. shall furnish all the material and do the following.

1. To paint and stipple with four good coats of paint of a color to be selected, the walls of the corridors on both sides of the main entrance, including the archways, and also the walls of the two [East?] Rooms on the same floor.
2. To Grain the portion of the walls in the East Rooms below the chair board to correspond with the same work in the Sculpture Hall.
3. The above named work to be done in a finished and workmanlike manner for the sum of one hundred and sixty dollars, to be paid when the work is accepted.

S.S. Parker & Co.

[Letter #395]
[Note: Letter # 395 actually consists of two letters]
[Front of envelope]
Treasury Secretary Of.
Sept. 11, 1874
Sept. 12, 1874
Encloses copy of letter to Collector [at?] Baltimore with regard to the opening of cases for the Gallery.
[Letter #1]
[Written on Treasury Department letterhead]
Sir:
In reply to your letter of Sept. 11, instant, in regard to the proper [construction?] of the law requiring examination of merchandise [landed?] under free entry, I herewith enclose copy of a letter of this date addressed to the Collector of Customs at Baltimore, MD. on that subject.
It is presumed that this letter will obviate the [necessity?] for unusual examination, and cause your packages to be forwarded without such opening as would [injure?] their contents.
I am very respectfully
B.H. [Illegible]
Secretary
Mr. Mac Leod Esq.
Curator, Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington D.C.

[Letter # 2]
[Written on Treasury Letterhead]
Copy
Sir:
Enclosed here with you will find application of William Mac-Leod, Curator of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., asking the views of this department in regard

to the practical construction of the law requiring examination of goods properly open to free entry.
While the Department does not desire to change the requirement of law, in regard to a [illegible] examination of the designated packages that is, one [illegible], it is still deemed proper to [illegible] what [degree?] [if?] actual opening and unpacking shall in cases like the one presented, be considered an examination.
You are therefore directed to limit such opening and unpacking, as far as it may be practicable and yet enable proper identification of the goods, as being statuary, etc. Complete opening and unpacking is not deemed [illegible], nor is it necessary unless evidence adverse to the good [faith?] to the shipment is hown, to open more than one package [illegible] in any manner. Identification of the packages as [bearing?] the proper marks and external appearance as belonging to such shipment is however [illegible] in regard to all packages.
Please return the enclosure.
I am,
Very Respectfully,
([Illegible]) B.H. [Brislord?], Secretary

[Letter #396]
[Note contains two separate letters, mailed together]
[Front of envelope]
Walter, W.J.
Balto. Sept. 14. 15. /74
Sept. 16/74
Encloses [bill?] of " [Illegible]"
Asks to have bill of lading sent him.Proposes to rehang pictures about Oct. 1.
[Letter]
Balti. 15th Sept. 74
Mr. MacLeod
[Illegible] I enclose the [bill?] of [illegible] and as he [illegible] live your city and a [working?] man, [I?] should be paid [illegible] [the?] [bill?]-Please say if the bill is correct [illegible] [illegible]. I will [pay?] it and [illegible] myself for the money
Respectfully
W.J. Walters

Balto. 14th, Sept. 74
Mr. MacLeod
[Sir?] [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] illegible] have rec'ed a bill of lading will you please see about it and send it to me.
The Treasury order now secures you nothing-as the case goes to the public. [Illegible] here and then [illegible] any owed else case [illegible] is [free?] to [do?] [illegible] illegible] [illegible] - and [it?] [does?] matter [much?] for them [you?] will be free of [trouble?] at the Gallery.

Did you see the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & [Tribune?] last week, I sent the latter to [illegible] [get?] [it?] [if?] [you?] have not [illegible].
I suppose we might [illegible] about the 1st [illegible]-What do you think?
Respectfully,
W.J. Walters
Have you see all the statues on [illegible] & in place.

[Letter #397]
[Envelope]
Todd, W.B.
Aug. 1. 1874
Proposal to paint walls of E. Sculpture Hall for $125.
[Letter]
Washington, Aug. 1, 1874
Trustees of corcoran Gallery of Art Washington, D.C.
Gentleman,
I propose to furnish the best material, and paint therewith (3 coats) walls of the two east Rooms adjoining Hall of Statuary, also grain under part of said walls imitation of walnut for the sum of one hundred (100) Dollars; or paint the same (4 coats) with the best material and grain under part of walls imitation of walnut for the sum of One hundred and twenty five (125) Dollars.
W.B. Todd

[Letter #398]
[Envelope]
Chamberlen, Geo. W.
Spt. 9, 1874
Proposal to paint walls of E. Sculpture Hall and Corridors to entrance for $299.
[Letter]
Washington Sept. 9. 1974
I the undersigned do agree to paint the walls in the Corcoran Art Gallery as follows. Side walls in the two Corridors, side walls in room between Corridors and side walls in side rooms to have.
Four (4) coats of paint and to be stipled [at?] wainscoting around the two side rooms to be painted grained in walnut and wax varnished to be done with the best material and workmanlike manner, For the sum of two hundred and ninety nine dollars. $299.00
Geo. W. Chamberlen
713 18th street N.W.

[Letter #399]
[Envelope]
Lucas, G.A.
Paris Sept. 2. 1874

Encloses copy of invoice of [Illegible] Picture. Has selected 46 more of Barye's Bronzes (small) costing 4670 frs. Pair of candelabras 1360 frs. Large Luxembourg 1800 frs. Will send by steamer Sept. 12. The Centaur will be ready in Oct. The [illegible] articles will be ready in 3 weeks. Cost 5090 frs.
[Letter]
Paris 2nd September 1874
Mr. W.T. Walters
Dear Sir
I enclose copy of invoice of [Dergoffe?] pictures which should leave on Steamer [Leipzig?] 29th August, also his letter describing it. It is for me a very satisfactory picture for the Gallery and can not fail to please everybody.I have selected 46 more of Barye's bronzes costing 4670 frs.- mostly small, the pair of candelabras & large Luxembourg, being the largest, am having them packed & will send on Steamer 12th September- The Centaur will be ready in October. But when you receive these you had better take prompt action of the [pendant?] to the Luxembourg & any other that would require Barye's care & attention. As I said before, he is old and his health is failing. Avery has turned over to me an order of the Corcoran for 15 pieces of [Illegible] [Illegible] articles to cost 5090 frs. -They will be done in 3 weeks & and this will require, with the other things all the Corcoran funds at my disposal.
Truly Your Friend
G.A. Lucas

[Letter #400]
[Front of Letter]
Marshall, Mrs. Mary M.
Markham Station, Va.
Sept. 7/74
Ans'd Sept. 23/74
Offers an old painting for sale

[Letter]

Markham Station
Sept. [illegible]
Mr. W. Corcoran Esq.
Dear Sir
I fear you may think I [lack?] a [illegible] in [illegible] my [to?] you, but [your?] well known [kindness?] must be my excuse, I have in my possession a very old painting, which has been in my husband's family for years. It has suffered by fire, so that only a portion is left, but it was always held by his mother & grandfather before him to be one of the old masters, a [Ruben?] or Rembrandt, I forget which. The [figures?] now visible are women [illegible] so forth. I can lay no claim to [beauty?] [&?] is valuable only from its antiquity (if at all).

I have been told that you desire to purchase old paintings, & [tho?] I have no means of proving by whom the picture was painted, yet I take the liberty of writing to you, thinking you may know of some test in which it [illegible] be [illegible], in case [it?] be [illegible] [illegible] that you may buy such [things?]. A few years ago I should not have dreamed of selling the painting, but I am now a widow with seven children [much?] of them very small. I have my husband's estate to settle [&?] I find that his land [will?] [illegible] for [secondly?] debts. If I could ask even a small sum for the painting, or [illegible] [illegible] would [assist?] me. I mention these facts as additional reasons for any presummary [illegible] [illegible] you, as I know no picture dealer & have no one to whom I [could?] send the painting for sale. If I have been misinformed, I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken, I think I may refer you to my Great Aunt, Mrs. [Do?] Brewer if [shown?] & to my children's relation Mrs. Marshall Brown of [illegible], to prove I would not be likely to state [illegible] facts about the picture which I did not at least believe to be true. Should you see fit to reply to me, my address is Mrs. Mary M. Marshall
Markham station.
I could send the painting to any address you write if you care to see it.
Very Respectfully,
Mary M. Marshall
Markham Station
Fauquier Co. VA